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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,111	11/18/2003	Dwayne Need	MFCP.110237	6120

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EXAMINER	
WAI, ERIC CHARLES	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2195	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/23/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/716,111	NEED ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ERIC C. WAI	2195	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 April 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,13,14 and 16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-2, 4, 13-14 and 16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-2, 4, 13-14 and 16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly, Jr. et al (US Pat No. 5,129,084 hereinafter Kelly) in view of Carbone et al. (US PG Pub No. US 2004/0133893 A1).

4. Regarding claim 1, Kelly teaches a threaded computing environment having a plurality of contexts (col 5 lines 24-28, wherein threads execute contexts), a method for allocating the access of threads to a resource, the method comprising:

receiving a request to access the resource from a first thread (col 29 lines 1-2);

determining whether the resource is presently being accessed by a second thread (col 29 lines 2-11), and:

if the resource is presently being accessed by a second thread, denying the request to access the resource received from the first thread (col 29 lines 9-11); and

if the resource is not presently being accessed by a second thread, allowing the request to access the resource received from the first thread (col 29 lines 6-9);

maintaining thread settings associated with the first thread and the second thread (col 5 lines 30-35).

5. Kelly does not explicitly teach that each context is capable of containing a queue, context settings, a context dictionary, and objects. It is old and well known in the art that processors supporting context would have various features to support the use of such contexts.

6. Kelly does not teach that the resource is a user interface context. A user interface context is defined by Applicant to be a context within which output is provided to a user and through which input is received ([0006]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the user interface context is a resource since threads frequently require access to the user.

7. Furthermore, Kelly does not teach maintaining context settings in the user interface context; and applying the context settings of the user interface context in place of the thread settings of any thread accessing the user interface context wherein each of the threads includes a corresponding thread history and thread settings.

8. Carbone teaches the use of maintaining thread level environment variables ([0007]). By setting and applying environment variables to individual threads, program

behavior can be modified ([0004]). Such environment variables are analogous to the context settings since a context is essentially an environment in which jobs run.

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kelly to include the applying of environment variables to thread settings. One would be motivated by the desire to dynamically change the behavior of programs based on the environment as taught by Carbone ([0004]).

10. Regarding claim 4, Kelly and Carbone do not explicitly teach restoring the thread settings when a thread departs the user interface context. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include restoring the thread settings after the thread finished using the resource.

11. Regarding claims 13 and 16, they are the computer readable media claims of claims 1 and 4 above. Therefore they are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 4 above.

12. Claims 2 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kelly, Jr. et al (US Pat No. 5,129,084) and Carbone et al. (US PG Pub No. US 2004/0133893 A1) further in view of Coutant (US Pat No. 6,293,712).

13. Regarding claim 2, Kelly does not teach:

maintaining a context record associated with each thread that identifies the contexts accessed by the thread, the most recent entry in the context record indicating the context presently being accessed by the thread;

when a thread accesses an object in the user interface context, checking the most recent entry in the context record associated with the thread;

determining whether the most recent entry in the context record matches the context of the object being accessed; and

if the most recent entry in the context record does not match the context of the object being accessed, raising an exception.

14. Coutant teaches using a ”context record” which is used to describe thread state in the most recent procedure activation at the point of interruption (col 5 lines 52-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kelly to utilize a context record to track previously performed procedures by the thread to perform exception handling. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kelly and Coutant by checking the most recent entry in the context record to match the context of the object being accessed. One would be motivated by the desire to ensure that the information saved to the context record is correct.

15. Regarding claim 14, it is the computer readable media claim of claim 2 above. Therefore it is rejected for the same reasons as claim 2 above.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric C. Wai whose telephone number is 571-270-1012. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng - Ai An can be reached on 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Li B. Zhen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2194

/Eric C Wai/
Examiner, Art Unit 2195